

Salvation History

History of Salvation

- The story of God's amazing act of love
- The redemptive acts of God to save humanity
- Fulfillment of God's promises
- On the Cross, Jesus fulfills the Old Testament: "It is finished" ([Jn 19:30](#))

Covenant

- Covenant = "Testament"
- God always keeps his side of the Covenant
- God's promises are expressed in the Seven Covenants

The Seven Covenants

- **Edenic Covenant**
 - Site: Eden
 - Blessing: marriage
 - Curse: death
- **Noahic Covenant**
 - Blessing: "Be fertile and fill the earth"
 - sovereignty over the earth, family, nations
 - and no more floods! (i.e., God will not renew man and will instead rescue him)
 - Signs: Mt. Ararat, the Dove and Olive branch, the Rainbow
 - Curse: sin, dispersal

- **Abrahamic Covenant**

- Blessing: greatness for Abraham and countless descendants
- Site: Mt. Moriah
- Sign: Circumcision

- **Mosaic Covenant**

- Blessing: God provides the Law for people to follow
- Place: Mt. Sinai
- Sign: The Law (Ten Commandments)

- **Davidic Covenant**

- Blessing: Kingdom
- Place: Mt. Moriah
- Sign: Kingdom of Israel, the Temple (under Solomon)

- **Prophetic Covenant**

- Blessing: return from Exile
- Sites:
 - blessings pronounced on Mt. Gerizim
 - curses pronounced on Mt. Ebal

- **New Covenant: Time of Fulfillment**

- Christ
- Fulfills the Old Covenants
 - (does not end them)
- The Good News ("Gospel")

Seven Periods of the Salvation History

Primeval History

- Creation, the Fall (Original Sin), the Flood
- Adam and Eve, Cain and Abel, Noah

Patriarchs

- Chosen People and Covenants
- Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph,
- Moses, Exodus, Aaron

The Promised Land

- God keeps his promises, Israelites cycle of faithful/unfaithful
- Joshua, Deborah, Gideon, Samson, Ruth

Kingdoms of Judea and Israel

- The people ask God for a king; David unites the Tribes
- Cycle of faithfulness/unfaithfulness, blessings/curses

- Samuel, Saul, David, Solomon

- Prophets: Elijah, Elisha, Isaiah, Jeremiah; remind the people of the Covenant

Exile & Return

- Curses of unfaithfulness: conquest and exile
- Return, rebuilding of the temple; new conquest
- Ezekial, Esther, Macabees

Life of Jesus

- Birth of Christ, God's son
- Christ = revelation of God's plan of salvation

Early Church

- Also, "Age of the Holy Spirit" (Pentecost)
- Teachings, spread of the Gospel ("Good News")
- Peter, Paul, the Saints and Martyrs

Isaiah: The Mysterious Servant

“The Servant Songs”

- Four passages from the Book of Isaiah that introduce the “Servant of the Lord”
 - Who explains God’s plan of salvation
- [Is 42:1](#):
*Here is my servant whom I uphold,
my chosen one with whom I am pleased.*
 - God says these words directly about Jesus in Mt 3:17, Mt 17:15, Mk 1:11 and quoted in 2 Pet 1:17
- [Is 42:6-7](#):
*I the LORD, have called you for justice,
I have grasped you by the hand;
I formed you, and set you as a covenant
for the people, a light for the nations*
- [Is 49:3](#) states that the servant is “Israel”
 - But not the nation of Israel, Jesus Christ
 - For fulfillment of Isaiah see:
 - Mt 8:17, 12:15-21, Acts 13:46-47
- [Is 64:3](#):
No ear has ever heard, no eye ever seen
 - Paul in [1 Cor 2:7-9](#) explains
*Rather, we speak God’s wisdom, mysterious,
hidden, which God predetermined before the
ages for our glory*

See also:

- [Rom 11:1-5](#) (“The Remnant of Israel”)

Concepts

Creation

- A liturgical act (i.e. public worship)
- God rests on the 7th Day
- = the goal and purpose of Creation, the day of Rest and Worship of God
- Man is God’s loving creation
 - From Adam’s sin to Christ’s faithfulness
- Covenant language: “Bone and Flesh”
- Also refers to weddings, so Covenant = wedding
 - see Gen 2:23, 29:14, Jgs 9:2, 2 Sam 19:13, 1 Chr 11:1

Generations

- God wants marriage, family, togetherness
- The Covenants are passed along the generations
- However, sin intervenes, and curses accrue
- God keeps His promises and blessings accrue when Man keeps his promises

Lineages

- First Born v. Second Born
 - “first born” = huge in God’s language
 - Usually the inheritance goes to the first born”
 - Comes with privileges and responsibilities
 - see Isaac blessing Jacob (Gen 27:1, 35)

- in Man’s fallen state, across Salvation History the blessings go to a second or other son (David, Solomon, etc.)
 - see Rueben (Gen 35:22, 49:3), Amnon (2 Sam 13), Jacob (Gen 27:1)
- God rewards, punishes and gives specific duties to certain lineages (Levites, Judah, etc.)
 - See Mt 1:1, “Genealogy of Jesus”

Fullness of Time

- The inauguration at Anunciation (to Mary) of the “fulfillment of God’s promises and preparations” ([CCC 484](#))
- [Gal 4:4](#):
“But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman...”

Limits of Understanding

- Human reason is limited by our senses, our reason and our concupiscence (tendency for sin)
- Salvation History is incomprehensible to people before God revealed it to us through Jesus Christ
- See Mt 16:23 (or [Mk 8:33](#))
*“You are thinking not as God does,
but as human beings do”*
- See also [1 Cor 2:8](#)

Edenic Covenant

Adam & Eve

- created in God's likeness (Gen 1:26)
 - note that Adam's son, Seth, is "begot... in his own likeness, after his image" (Gen 5:3)
- filled with the "spirit" (God breathes life into him; Gen 2:7)
- Adam is
 - Priest (Garden = sanctuary, church)
 - Prophet (names the animals)
 - King (given dominion over the earth)
- God creates Eve (Gen 2:18)
 - God's gift to mankind = marriage, partnership, family
 - = first covenant, marriage

The Fall

- Who let the serpent in?
 - Or, if the serpent was already there, why did Adam let it approach his wife? (He was there.)
- The "three-fold concupiscence": the threefold bases of sin:
 - Lust of flesh: good to taste
 - Lust of the eyes: pleasing to look at (desire)
 - Lust = to desire what is not rightfully your own
 - Pride of Life: "Good for wisdom"
 - the Tree: putting oneself above God
- Serpent: "You will not die"
 - the seed of sin is fear of death
 - introduces doubt, distrust of God
 - JP11: "We become masters of suspicion" and do not trust God
- Satan today attacks:
 - Marriage
 - Family
 - Sexuality
- Guilt
 - God: "Where are you? ... Who told you that you were naked?" (Gen 3:9-11)
 - self-consciousness/ self-absorption

Primeval Period

- Cain & Abel (Gen 4:3)
- Cain's descendants = "Sons of Man" (see Genesis 4-5)
- Cain's son Enoch: Cain named the city for him ("name" = pride)
- Sons of Man invent things (instruments, metalworking)
- 7th generation = Lameck (don't name your child this!!)
 - takes two wives (Gen 5:19)
 - = attack on marriage, family, sexuality
 - threatens the wives and kills over slights
 - promises vengeance "seventy-seven times" ([Gn 5:23-24](#); see [Mt. 18:22](#) for Jesus' reply)
 - Lameck = three-fold sin
- Seth: [Gn 4:25-6](#), [Gen 5:3](#)
 - "God has granted me another offspring in place of Abel," she said, "because Cain killed him."
 - "At that time people began to invoke the LORD by name"
- Seth's descendants = "Sons of God" ([Gn 6:2](#))
 - Sons of God
 - Lineage = Seth > to Noah > Abraham (See Lk 3:23-38)
- But, then sin multiplies...
 - "the sons of God saw how beautiful the daughter of human beings were, so they took for their wives whomever they pleased" (Gen 6:2)
 - And take on pagan practices and sins
- God enforces the Covenant and decides to start over w/ Noah: ([Gn 6:5-8](#))

Noahic Covenant

- God offended by Cain's offspring
 - "I am sorry that I have made them" ([Gn 6:5-8](#))
- Noah is of the line of Seth ([Gn 5:28](#))
- "Noah" means "He will bring us relief"
- "Noah was a righteous man and blameless in his generation" ([Gn 6:9](#))
- The Ark
 - = new Eden
 - 3 days to fill formlessness, 3 days to fill the void
 - 3 levels = time, space, habitat
 - 3 levels on the arch
 - = new Eden, new Creation
- Noah = priest
 - Dove: Holy Spirit, ruah,
 - Olive branch: Christ
- offers sacrifice when he lands = priest
- eats the fruit, gets drunk, naked
- Ham sees father's nakedness and is cursed
 - = euphemism for incest
 - but with the intention to take over the family
- So the second son Shem gets the blessing
- Ham's descendants
- Sin multiplies
 - "Let us make a name for ourselves"
 - Tower of Babel
 - Curse = disperse, confused the languages
 - redeemed at Pentecost

Abrahamic Covenant

Three Covenants

- Genesis
 - Ch. 15: Promised Land
 - see 15:9-17 for cutting the animals
 - Ch 17 : Circumcision & descendants
 - Ch 22:15-18: "all the nations"
- Patriarchs
- The period of Abraham up to Moses is called "Patriarchal Age"
 - No kings, rule by elders (priests)
- Abraham
 - Believes God (faith)
 - Meets the king after battle, Melchizedek (priest/king: a type/ figure of Christ)
 - Melchizedek teaches Abraham how to sacrifice
- God promises him:
 - great name, great nation, great blessings
- Abraham's dream: to sacrifice the animals... cuts them in two "Let happen to me what happened to these animals... and if you're unfaithful..."
 - But Abraham and Sarah lose patience
 - She laughed at God
 - Hagar = bigamy (Ishmael, Gen 16:1)

- Mark of the covenant: circumcision
 - "The Law" = to reorient mankind back to God's plan
 - Circumcision for having slept w/ Hagar...
 - draws blood
 - all his servants and all his families
- God tests Abraham, to sacrifice his Son, Isaac
 - Isaac is willing (does his father's will)
 - = healing of the marriage
 - The angel "stays his hand": You passed the test: you trusted God
 - The boy will be the future of the blessing
- The lineage:
 - Isaac, Jacob, Joseph
 - Sets in place the path to the next Covenant
 - But also sets the path to trouble, fighting over lineage

Mosaic Covenants

- To free Israel from enslavement in Egypt
 - Egypt = sin
 - See “Massacre of the Innocents, [Mt 2:16](#)
- go to the desert and offer sacrifice
 - but that would mean to sacrifice the Egyptian gods,
 - so Pharaoh said no way, so the plagues
- God demands Pharaoh free the Hebrews
 - The Plagues = aspects of Egyptian gods and/or punishment
 - esp. the first born
- Red Sea: water
 - Death, chaos, sin
 - Baptism
- Mt. Sinai:
 - Moses sees heaven
 - God tells him to build a model of Heaven (the Ark)
 - Gives him the Ten Commandments
- But the people rebel, worship the golden calf
 - only the tribe of Levi stayed true... God punishes Israel, makes Levites the priests (takes away the other priests)
 - 3,000 men killed by the Levites = the ordination of the Levites as priests
 - the 3,000 is redeemed, or undone, by baptism after Peter’s speech at the Temple
- now a new Curse:
 - 40 years in the desert
 - that generation will never see the promised land
- Blessing:
 - the promised Land for their descendants

- But the curse =
 - more Laws
 - daily sacrifices
 - oceans of blood
- Sins of Moses:
 - Not circumcising his son ([Ex 4:26](#))
 - Striking the rock ([Num 20:2-13](#))
 - also: he committed murder but possibly justified ([Ex 2:12](#))

Patriarchs (Judges)

- Rule by the priests (Patriarchs)
- but the people grumbled ... wanted a King
- “Every man did what was right in his own eyes” ([Jgs 21:25](#))
- so God gave them a king, Saul
 - God told Israel, fine, if you want a king, I’ll give you one ([1 Sm 8:7-9](#))
 - “He will take your sons... and daughters”
- God sets a new rule ([Sm 8:11-18](#)):
 - you will not multiply wives (lust of flesh), gold (lust of eyes) , horses (pride of life)
 - = three-fold concupiscence:
 - Lust of flesh
 - Lust of eyes
 - Pride of life

Saul

- The last Judge, Samuel, anoints Saul (Messiah), the handsomest man in Israel
- Saul is from tribe of Benjamin
- Saul both ruled and worshipped like a king:
 - for himself and not from devotion
- Samuel tells him, “Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice” ([1 Sm 15:13-15](#))

Davidic Covenant

David

- a shepherd and the last of Jesse’s sons, was chosen by God (via prophet Samuel)
 - Chosen by God
- “All the tribes of Israel”
 - “We are your bone and your flesh” ([2 Sam 5:1](#))

- moves his capital to Jerusalem
- means “place of peace” (or “artichoke”)
- Priest, prophet, king
 - The son : God breathes into him (like Adam)
 - Anointed: Messiah
- David sins

- He's napping while his troops are at war ([2 Sam 11 1-27](#))
 - = careless like Adam
 - tempted by Bathsheba; arranges death of her husband
- broke the covenant and receives the curses ([2 Sam 12:7-12](#))
 - then he begs for forgiveness
- God forgives him but curses his son's reign
 - God forbade him from building the Temple
- Blessing: Solomon
 - Anointed: Messiah
- Solomon (2nd son)
 - Asks for Wisdom
 - Builds the Temple at same place as Abraham's sacrifice, Mt. Moriah
 - = Eden, church, heaven
 - has images of Eden and the cosmos

Soloman

- Rules justly but compromises himself
 - Made vassal states contribute 666 talents of gold each year
 - Queen of Sheba brought horses, and Solomon gets more from Egypt
 - = the land of Sin, from which they escaped
 - Satan uses temptation to subvert Solomon
 - 666 talents = mark of the Beast
 - takes many foreign wives
 - attack on family, sexuality
- Worships idols of the wives

God tells Solomon he will "tear away the whole kingdom," leaving only one tribe "for the sake of David my servant" ([1 Kgs 11:13](#); ruled by Rehoboam, Solomon's son)

- The kingdom divides
- the tribes split and never come back
- Rehoboam doubles down on the tribute (taxes), says he will make the "yoke" heavier ([1 Kgs 12:14](#))
- The sins continue...
- Assyrians conquer northern kingdoms
 - The tribes intermarry w/ pagans
 - Jeroboam, an Egyptian, takes over, sets up pagan temples
 - Assyrians had 5 false gods they brought w/ them to inter-marry w/ the tribes
 - = Samaritans
- Babylonian exile
 - After 70 years, freed by Persia
 - God fulfills his Covenant promise by restoring Israel (God spoke to the Persian King)
- Josiah restores the kingdom Judah under the Line of David
 - after the exile, rebuilds the temple
 - has a huge feast on Mt. Zion
 - like David's party on bringing the Ark
 - like Solomon's celebration when bringing the Ark to the Temple,
 - a feast for 7 days on the 7th day of the 7th month of the 7th year
 - served wine & milk
 - = Covenant promises kept by God (David and Solomon)

Covenant of the Prophets

The prophets

- come out of the desert
- continual reminder to Israel of the Covenant
 - Pronounce the blessings on Mt. Garizim
 - Pronounce the curses on Mt. Nabal
- Daniel, during exile prayed for Israel during the Hour of Incense
 - Archangel Gabriel comes to him

- tells him that in 70 years the exile would be over
- but the fulfillment, the Messiah, would not come for 70 x 7 years (490 years)
- 490 years later, Zachariah at the Temple, at Hour of Incense
 - Gabriel comes to him ([Lk 1:14](#))
 - tells him his wife, Elizabeth is pregnant
 - and his son will be a prophet

- Six months later, Gabriel comes to Mary (Lk 1:26)
 - 6 mos Eliz = 180 days ([Lk, 1:36](#))
 - 9 mos Mary = 270 days
 - = 450
 - + 40 days before presentation at the Temple
 - = 490 days = parallel to Daniel's vision
 - = fulfillment of his prophecy

Third Temple Judaism (post-Exile)

- Return from Babylon
 - rebuild the Temple
- Hellenistic Age (following Alexander the Great)
 - conquered by Greeks
 - the Temple is profaned by pagans and Israelites who are corrupted by them
- Revolt of the Maccabees
 - Defeat the Greeks, reclaim the Temple
 - Cleanse the Temple
- Leads to rise of the Pharisees, who demanded strict adherence to every law (the Law had 600+ corollaries)

- The pharisees wanted purity because they thought that if every Jew fulfilled the Law God would redeem Israel
- So as priests, they could bring salvation by enforcing the Law
- But they thought salvation was from pagan occupation, not sin
 - for example. Herod thought if he could rebuild the Temple he would be the Messiah (as was Solomon who built the first Temple)
- The Jews thought that the Messiah would
 1. Restore Jerusalem
 2. Defeat the pagans
 3. Save all the peoples of the earth (see also [Acts 1:6](#) – even the Apostles thought Jesus would “restore the [earthly] Kingdom to Israel”)
- Jesus did all three:
 - New Jerusalem = Heaven
 - paganism, worship of false gods
 - converting the pagans

Time of Fulfillment

- Fulfillment = Messiah
- Salvation = God
- The Cross = the Way
 - The Cross bridges the gap between Jew and Gentile
 - Note: “The Way” was an early term for Christianity

All nations

- Jesus teaches to the Jews, but he speaks to all people, examples:
- **Roman Centurion** ([Mt 8:8](#)):
“Amen, I say to you, in no one in Israel have I found such faith.”
- **Samaritan woman** w/ possessed daughter ([Mk 7:28](#)):
“Lord, even the dogs under the table eat the children’s scraps”

- **Samaritan woman at the well** ([John 4:4](#))
 - wells = place of betrothal (Moses & others)
 - she is ashamed of having broken her wedding vows (5 times; = errant tribes)
 - 5 husbands = the 5 Assyrian gods
 - Who is the one who is with you now?
 - Jesus!
 - Jesus wants to be the bridegroom

Fulfillment: healing the blind man

- In [John 9:1-8](#), Jesus heals a man blind from birth with dirt (clay) and commanding (spoken word) the man to “wash” in a pool
- [Gen 2:7](#): “then the LORD God formed the man out of the dust of the ground and blew into his nostrils the breath of life”

Passover

- Fifth feast offered on the mountain (Mt. Moriah of the Abrahamic & Davidic Covenants)
 - wine, food = Passover
- Jesus stops short of the fourth cup
- goes to Mt. Olives and begins the Passion
- on the Cross, he says, “I am thirsty”
 - takes wine by “sprig of hyssop” ([Jn 19: 29](#))
 - = the same plant as used to splash the blood at Passover
- Romans stripped him of his garments
 - = Adam but without shame
 - Jesus took our death onto himself
- Consummates the wedding feast
 - Like the Parable of the Wedding
 - The grace will flow from Zion
 - pierced his side: blood and water flow

Jesus’ last words:

- [Mt. 27:46](#), [Mk 15:34](#) invoke [Ps 22:2](#):
“Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?”
 (“My God, my God,
why have you forsaken me?”)
- [Lk 23:46](#) invokes [Ps 31:6](#):
“Father, into your hands
I commend my spirit”
- [Jn 19:30](#):
“It is finished”
 - “finished” means completed, fulfilled
 - = Old Covenant has been fulfilled
 - see [Jn 4:34](#) (also [Jn 17:4](#)):
“My food is to do the will of the one
who sent me and to finish his work”
- [Rev 22:20](#):
“Come, Lord Jesus”

Church Age

Age of the Holy Spirit

- Pentecost ([Acts 2:1](#))

Early Church

- Communal life ([Acts 2:42](#), [4:32](#))
- Peter’s Speech ([Acts 3:11](#))
 - Invokes Moses, explains God’s Plan of Salvation ([3:22-26](#))
 - Baptizes 5,000 ([Acts 4:4](#))
- Organization of the Church ([Acts 6:1](#))
- “Stephen’s Discourses” and martyrdom ([Acts 6:8, 7](#))
 - Stephen explains the History of Salvation
- Conversion of Saul (Paul) ([Acts 9](#))
 - Apostle to the Gentiles
 - Even though he wanted to convert Israel

Acceptance of the Gentiles

- Visions of Cornelius and Peter ([Acts 10](#))
“What God has made clean,
you are not to call profane.”
([Acts 10:15](#))
- Baptism of Gentiles ([Acts 11](#))

- Peter’s speech: “God shows no partiality” ([Acts 10:34](#))
- Establishment of new Churches
- Council of Jerusalem ([Acts 15](#)) & dispute over circumcision and Dietary Law (Mosaic Laws)
- Paul speech at the Areopagus in Athens ([Acts 17:22](#)) re. Athenian’s “Unknown god”

Persecution

- in Jerusalem (under Saul, [Acts 8:3](#))
 - see “Paul’s Defense” ([Acts 22](#))
- by pagans & Jews outside of Jerusalem
- under Rome

Michael’s favorite lines from Paul

- “Preaching without Charge” ([2 Cor 11](#))

Revelation

- *Parousia* = Second Coming of Christ
- Coming.. when?